

(a) whether pamolein Oil is being supplied regularly to people under Public Distribution System in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union to permit import of Pamolein Oil to meet the demand of the State;

(c) whether the Government have permitted any other State to import Pamolein Oil;

(d) if so, the names of those States; and

(e) whether the Government propose to permit Karnataka Government also to import the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED): (a) supply of edible oil under Public Distribution System in all the States including Karnataka was disrupted because the same was not allocated to the States for the period from April, 191 to September, 1991.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The other states permitted to import pamolein so far are:- Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(e) Government of Karnataka has already been permitted to import pamolein.

Reserved Posts in various Ministries

2279. SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for not filling up the reserved quota meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various ministries:

(b) whether any action is being taken to fill up the quota;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d). The main reason for the quota of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in direct recruitment not being able to be fully utilised, is the lack of availability of suitable Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates particularly in scientific and technical disciplines. Special Recruitment Drives to fill-up the vacancies accruing as backlog in the reserved quota have been undertaken and a fresh Special Recruitment Drive is under way to further reduce the backlog.

Shortage of Drug

2280. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Drug shortage grave" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated August 13, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) No general shortage of any drug come to the notice of the Government except

instances of shortage of some branded formulations, in some localised areas, for which therapeutic equivalents were usually available.

Prices of Life Saving Drugs

2281. SSHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether prices of life saving drugs have gone up by 30 per cent during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to control the prices of those drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The figures in regard to movement of the wholesale price index for drugs and medicines during the year 1990-91 is 149.6 as compared to 140.4 in the year 1989-90, with base year 1981-82 = 100.

Recently, medicines based on imported inputs have registered comparatively higher price increases due to exchange rate adjustment. However, out of about 200 formulations whose prices have been revised upwards after exchange rate adjustment, only 39 formulations have shown increase of 20% or more.

(b) In a situation of rising cost of inputs, corresponding increase in the prices of medicines is unavoidable. The prices of all the scheduled formulations are fixed in accordance with a formula and fixed norms, after careful scrutiny in order to keep adequate check on the prices of these medicines as

Post Harvest Losses

2282. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to assess the value of foodgrains lost after harvest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the modern techniques adopted to provide efficient storage management at farm level to prevent food grains losses and results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) to (c). No study as such has been conducted to assess the post harvest foodgrain losses. To minimise such losses, however, the following main techniques have been developed and propagated through Save Grain campaign:—

- (i) Development of several designs of metallic bins and no-metallic storage structures;
- (ii) Development of a fumigant mixture viz. EDB plus for insect control;
- (iii) Standardisation of dosages of pesticides such as Aluminum Phosphide, Ethylene Dibromide Malathion and DDVP;
- (iv) Testing and standardisation of dosages of several formulation of rodenticides;
- (v) Development of number of codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains;
- (vi) Training of farmers, village level workers etc. in scientific storage of foodgrains;
- (vii) Publicity and dissemination of information through radio talks, TV programmes, press reports exhibitions, film/slide shows etc.

A statement indicating main achievements of Save Grain Campaign is given below